



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Williams

Application No.: 10/568,520

Filed: 2/14/2006

Title: Dry Chemical System for Extinguishing Difficult Fuel or Flammable Liquid Fires in an Industrial Tank w/ Roof Creating Space Above the Liquid(PCT50197)

Attorney Docket No.: 50262

Art Unit:
3752

Examiner:
Christopher S. Kim

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of August 7, 2009, please amend this application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as per the attached claim amendment sheet.

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1- 3, 5-12, 14-18 and 20 - 35 are pending. Claims 4, 13 and 19 are withdrawn. The independent method claims are claims 1, 8 and 32. The independent apparatus claims are claims 5, 17 and 25.

Claim Amendments

The independent claims have been amended, as necessary, to recite an "industrial scale" tank (PCT Spec page 1 line 7) with a "fixed" roof (PCT Spec page 1 line 8) and "an internal roof". E.g. the independent claims recite a double-roofed tank, as discussed in Background of the Invention section, PCT application page 1 lines 11-18. Reciting the internal roof, known to be floating at least prior to the fire, and referred to as a "floater," structurally qualifies the tank to one of ordinary skill in the art. The skilled artisan knows that a cone roof plus floater is utilized for large industrial scale tanks that contain flammable liquids. (Note: as further discussed in PCT specification page 3 lines 14 through 30, upon the occasion of a fire, the internal "floating" roof may have tilted, or have partially sunk, or have totally sunk. Seals may have been destroyed, in whole or in part. Thus, the foam blanket may be laid down over the surface of the liquid or over the internal floating roof or over part one of one and part of the other, depending upon the circumstances).